WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Markets for perishable commodities

1936. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for modern markets for perishable commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the mode of setting up of the markets, the details of partnership and the States identified for the purpose;

(c) the States which submitted the proposals/shown the interest for these markets;

(d) whether steps will be taken to establish these markets in all the States;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the total budget proposed for the above proposal, as on today?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A national conference of State Ministers held on 19th November, 2004 at Bangalore, considered various options for liberalizing the agricultural marketing system for setting up of professionally managed markets in the country. Accordingly, the Ministry took the initiative, formulated detailed project reports and invited 'Expresson of Interest' from the private/cooperative sectors for establishment of state of art terminal markets at eight important centres in the country *viz.* Bhopal, Kolkata, Nagpur, Mumbai, Nasik, Patna, Rai and Chandigarh (Union Territory). The Terminal Markets are to operate on a Hub-and-Spoke Format wherein the Terminal Market (the hub) would be linked to a number of collection centres (the spokes), conveniently located to allow easy access to farmers for the marketing of their produce. The commodities to be covered by the markets include fruits, vegetables, flowers, aromatics, herbs, meat and poultry. The public private partnership (PPP) model envisaged for the terminal market projects is that while the private enterprise brings the capital and management, the State Government

provides the regulatory clearance and the Central Government, part of the equity capital in the project. The enterprise could be a consortium of entrepreneurs from agri-business, cold chain, logistics, warehousing, agri-infrastructure and related background.

(c) The States of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal and the Union Territory of Chandigarh have shown interest in taking up the terminal market projects.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. The proposal to set up Terminal Markets on PPP model was discussed with the State Governments and interested private enterprises at a national conference of State Ministers held on 20-02-2006 at New Delhi. All the States have in general agreed to go ahead with the implementation of the projects.

(g) In the annual budget 2006-07, under the National Horticulture Mission, an amount of Rs. 150.00 crore has been earmarked for setting up of Terminal Markets in the country.

Reducing post harvest losses

1937. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the techniques developed by ICAR to minimize the losses in agricultural produce, especially fruits and vegetables in the country;

(b) whether the Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology is doing anything in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the assistance given by the National Horticulture Board to the farmers to reduce post-harvesting losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) A number of techniques and equipment have been developed by ICAR to minimize the losses in agricultural produce, especialy fruits and vegetables in the country. A list of selected technologies for minimization of losses in agricultural produce is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).